

### **REMARKS**

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 5, 13-24 and 28-36 and leaves claims 2-4, 6-12 and 25-27 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-36.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to various informalities in the claims. Various amendments were made throughout the claims to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Burrows (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,117). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now recited in claims 1-36 are not taught or suggested by Burrows whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims so as to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a circuit simulation method and apparatus for carrying out operational simulation of an electronic circuit through a network. According to the present invention circuit data from a design engineering party of an electronic circuit is entered into a first information processing apparatus, wherein the circuit data indicates characteristics of electronic circuit. Thereafter, at least one of an impedance or propagation velocity for the entered circuit data is calculated at the first information processing apparatus and the calculated circuit data is sent from the first information processing unit connected to with the network to a second

information processing unit connected with the network. The circuit data is received at the second information processing apparatus which is arranged so that circuit models describing electronic circuit operations are stored therein to enable operational simulation. The circuit models are stored in a storage accessible by the second information processing apparatus. Operational simulation of the electronic circuit is carried out at the second information processing apparatus using the circuit models in the storage and the received circuit data and results of the operational simulation are sent from the second information processing apparatus through the network without sending the circuit models themselves.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record particularly Burrows.

Burrows discloses a distributed computer aided design (CAD) system having a CAD server station and one or more CAD client stations remote from the CAD server station but connectable thereto via a connections medium. As taught by Burrows, the distributed CAD system allows for the design and simulation of circuit models.

Particularly, Burrows discloses that once the user has received a completed a design parameter entry document 51, the user then submits 52 the document by sending the contents of the fields of the document, to which data was entered, over a network to the CAD server. According to Burrows the CAD server then processes 54 the data received such as, for example, performs some type of analysis, synthesis or simulation, and returns 56 the results to the user. The Examiner's

attention is directed to col. 4, lines 50-57. However, at no point in Burrows is there any teaching or suggestion of calculating at least one of an impedance and a propagation velocity for the data entered into the field before sending the data to the CAD server as in the present invention. The features of the present invention allow for confidentiality to be maintained with respect to important calculations concerning the electronic circuit including, for example, calculation of at least one of an impedance and a propagation velocity for the electronic circuit not taught or suggested by Burrows.

Thus, Burrows fails to teach or suggest entering, from a design engineering party of the electronic circuit into a first information processing apparatus, circuit data indicating characteristics of the electronic circuit, calculating at the first information processing apparatus at least one of an impedance and a propagation velocity for the entered circuit data, and sending from the first information processing apparatus connected with the network to a second information processing apparatus connected with the network, the calculated circuit data as recited in the claims.

Therefore, Burrows fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in claims 1-36. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 1-36 as being anticipated by Burrows is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 1-36.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-36 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-36 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.40846X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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